



The NSINIC On-Line System

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The NSINIC On-Line System

- I. Background**
 - A. A Little NSI History**
 - B. The ADFTO's Other On-Line Servers**
- II. NSINIC On-Line**
 - A. The Current System**
 - B. How It Works**
 - C. NSINIC: The Next Generation**
- III. Summary**



The NSINIC On-Line System

General Background:

NASA became involved with dedicated wide-area networking with the establishment of the DECnet-based Space Physics Analysis Network (SPAN) in 1981 and the TCP/IP-based NASA Science Network (NSN) in 1987.

After a series of NASA Network Management Retreats in late 1990, SPAN and the NSN were joined into a unified NASA Science Internet (NSI).

With establishment of the unified NSI, the Goddard Space Flight Center was tasked with setting up a Network Information Center (NIC), which was to include an on-line user help system.

The NIC staff made the decision to temporarily host the NSINIC system on already existing on-line systems in use for SPAN and the GSFC LAN.



The NSINIC On-Line System

Network Servers Provided by Goddard's ADFTO

A. Services Hosted on DFTNIC.gsfc.nasa.gov (VAX 8250)

1. **NSI Network Information Center On-Line System (NSINIC)** -- new service.
2. **Network Information On-Line Aid System (NICOLAS)** -- approx. 102 user logins/day, current total over 77000. Listed in the Internet Resources Guide by invitation.
3. **Anonymous FTP File Server** -- Approximately 1.5 MB disk space allocated to 236 VMS and Macintosh files; currently averages over 9 accesses per day.

B. Services Hosted on DFTSRV.gsfc.nasa.gov (Sun 3/260)

1. **USENET News Server** -- Over 140 MB disk space allocated to more than 800 newsgroups, supporting 76 client systems; sample monitoring has shown up to 25 simultaneous users
2. **Anonymous FTP File Server** -- 48 MB allocated to over 200 UNIX, VMS and Macintosh files; averages over 20 accesses per day.

C. Services Hosted on DFTSUN4.gsfc.nasa.gov (Sun 4/260)

1. **White Pages Server** -- Entire GSFC telephone book available, as well as listings for all other White Pages project participants (over 100 sites); accessible with login "fred".

D. Services Hosted on NSSDCA.gsfc.nasa.gov (VAX 8650)

1. **SPAN Network Information Center On-Line System (SPAN_NIC)** -- First of NASA's major on-line network servers; includes NSI-DECnet (formerly SPAN) node database queries, "how to" files, and network documentation. Will be folded into next release of NSINIC system.



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Other On-Line Services Provided by the ADFTO

A. Services Hosted on DFTNIC (VAX 8250)

1. **BITNET Access Server** -- Encapsulates BITNET (RSCS) packets in DECnet; currently supporting ROSAT and Crustal Dynamics projects at Goddard.
2. **X.25 Access Server** -- Encapsulates X.25-related packets in DECnet; currently supporting ROSAT and several Code 500 projects at Goddard.
3. **DNS/DFS Server** -- Supporting approx. 25 nodes in the CAC and CSDR clusters at Goddard.

B. Services Hosted on DFTSRV (Sun 3/260)

1. **TCP/IP Domain Name Server** -- Recorded over 12 accesses/minute during work hours.



The NSINIC On-Line System

The Current System:

Hosted on the DFTNIC VAX 8250, which is part of both NSI-DECnet and NSI-TCP/IP, with additional links to BITNET.

Basically a "skeleton" system that allows easy access to SPAN_NIC and NICOLAS, provides an on-line problem reporting utility, provides information about the NSI and help contacts for individual NASA and ESA sites.

System is hardware independent; NSINIC looks and acts the same on many different kinds of terminals.

User-friendly menu interface.



The NSINIC On-Line System

NSINIC TOP MENU

- [1] HOW TO USE THIS SYSTEM
- [2] Info About the NSI and Other Nets
- [3] NSI Personnel for Additional Help
- [4] HELP FILES AND INFO
- [5] Connect to SPAN NIC
- [6] Connect to NICOLAS
- [7] Report A Problem

== HELP FILES AND INFO ==

- [1] E-Mail Syntax Matrix
- [2] The EAST Interoperability Gateway
- [3] How to Transfer Files
- [4] ...

The EAST Interoperability Gateway

The NASA Science Internet Project Office (NSIPO) has funded an Interoperability Gateway to facilitate the exchange of E-Mail, file transfer and remote logon capability between TCP/IP-based networks and DECNet-based networks.

The Interoperability Gateway at Goddard



Once logged in, users are presented with the NSINIC "Welcome Banner", where system messages will be posted as needed.

[illegible]

WELCOME TO THE NSINIC ON-LINE USER HELP SYSTEM! THIS IS A NEW SERVICE,
AND SOME PARTS ARE STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, SO PLEASE BEAR WITH US. IF
YOU ENCOUNTER ANY DIFFICULTIES, CALL THE NSI USO AT 301-286-7251 OR SEND
EMAIL TO NSINIC::NSIHELP OR NSIHELP@NSINIC.

NOTE: Unlike NICOLAS, there are no "passthru" to other systems available at this point.

344



The NSINIC On-Line System

The Top Menu:

This menu is the central point from which all NSINIC features can be accessed; it can be reached from any other menu by entering 'T' at the prompt.

```
***** NASA SCIENCE INTERNET (NSI) ON-LINE USER HELP SYSTEM *****

== TOP MENU ==

[ 1] HOW TO USE THIS SYSTEM
[ 2] Info About the NSI and Other Nets
[ 3] NSI Personnel for Additional Help
[ 4] HELP FILES AND INFO
[ 5] Connect to SPAN_NIC
[ 6] Connect to NICOLAS
[ 7] Report A Problem/Leave A Message

[H]elp [P]revious [R]efresh [T]op [Q]uit ----> █
```



The NSINIC On-Line System

Menu-Specific Help:

Each menu has its own help file, detailing what the various choices are and listing any system commands available from that menu. These help files can be accessed from any menu by typing 'H' at the prompt.

```
NSINIC TOP MENU HELP ***** PAGE 1/2

You are currently in the Top Menu. This is "home base" for the entire system;
from here, you can move to any of the other menus or utilities by entering the
appropriate choice number at the "---->" prompt.

WHAT THE OPTIONS ARE
-----
[ 1 ] INFO ABOUT THE NSI AND OTHER NETS: This brings up a menu from where you
      can access info on the NSI (including instructions on acquiring NSI
      connectivity) as well as information about other wide-area networks.
[ 2 ] NSI PERSONNEL FOR ADDITIONAL HELP: This brings up a menu that lets you
      look up names and numbers of NSI contacts at individual NASA centers.
[ 3 ] HELP FILES AND INFO: This brings up a menu with instructions for sending
      Email, files xfers, using NSI interoperability gateway(s), and more.
[ 4 ] CONNECT TO SPAN_NIC: This logs you directly into the SPAN_NIC on-line help
      system, which carries *extensive* information about NSI-DECnet.
[ 5 ] CONNECT TO NICOLAS: This logs you directly into Goddard's NIC On-Line Aid
      System, which included several very handy automated utilities.
[ 6 ] REPORT A PROBLEM: This automated utility allows you to send a flagged
      message to the NSINIC staff alerting us to any user problems.

Document not complete, SPACE to continue, ? for help, [Quit], [Exit], [Back]
```

NOTE: This example shows the first page of the help file for the Top Menu.

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The NSINIC On-Line System

Menu-Specific Help (cont'd):

This is a sample of the 2nd page of a menu help file, detailing the system commands available from that menu.

```
NSINIC TOP MENU HELP ***** PAGE 2/2
                                "TOP MENU"

OTHER COMMANDS YOU CAN ISSUE
-----
[EXIT]: log out of the system (return to your home system)

[H]ELP: displays this help file

[P]REVIOUS: go directly to the previous menu

[Q]UIT: log out of the system (return to your home system)

[R]EFRESH: re-paints the menu display

[T]OP: go directly to the NSINIC Top Menu

[V]ERSION: information on the current version of the NSINIC drivers

Document 100% complete; SPACE to continue, ? for help, [Quit], [Exit], [Back]
```

NOTE: This example shows the second page of the help file for the Top Menu.



The NSINIC On-Line System

NSINIC: The Next Generation

Current plans for the first series of system enhancements concentrate on more information content: more "how to" and "what is" type files, increased coverage of companion wide-area nets, etc.

Other planned enhancements call for inclusion of the SPAN data base and other functions and files from SPAN_NIC, as well as access to TCP/IP information (and possibly other automated utilities).

In the more distant future... an X-based system? Expert system user queries?

The bottom line: NSINIC enhancement and evolution will be driven by *user requirements*.



The NSINIC On-Line System

In Summary...

This is only version 1.0 of a system we expect to grow and evolve over time in reaction to user requests and requirements.

SPAN_NIC will be folded into NSINIC over a period of months, eventually going off-line once the newer NSINIC can furnish an equal level of support to NSI-DECnet users.

NSINIC is only one aspect of the new NASA Science Internet User Support Office (NSI USO) recently established at Goddard; for more information, send electronic mail to NSINIC::NSIHELP (DECnet) or nsihelp@nsinic (TCP/IP).



The NSINIC On-Line System

How to Get There:

To access the NSINIC on-line system from a DECnet node:

\$ SET HOST DFTNIC <CR> (If your system does not know DFTNIC, use DECnet address 6148 instead.)

Username: NSINIC <CR>

To access the NSINIC on-line system from a TCP/IP node:

\$ TELNET DFTNIC <CR> (If your system does not know DFTNIC, use TCP/IP address 128.183.10.3 instead.)

Username: NSINIC <CR>



WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

**NASA Science Internet User Support Office
(NSI USO) Code 930.4
Advanced Data Flow Technology Office
Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, MD 20771**

**301-286-7251 FTS 888-7251
(alt. 301-286-9514/FTS 888-9514)
(FAX 301-286-5152)**

**DFTNIC::NSIHELP (6148::NSIHELP)
nsihelp@dftnic.gsfc.nasa.gov (nsihelp@128.183.10.3)
(C:USA,A:TELEMAIL,P:INTERNET,ID:"<nsihelp(a)dftnic.gsfc.nasa.gov>")
NSIHELP@DFTBIT**



The NSI User Support Office (NSIUSO) Presents...
THE NASA SCIENCE INTERNET NETWORK INFORMATION CENTER
(NSINIC) ON-LINE SYSTEM

NSINIC is a menu-driven help facility designed to aid both novice and experienced users of the NASA Science Internet. NSINIC includes user guides for general and inter-operating networking functions (e.g., remote logins and file transfers); listings of who to call for help at individual NASA centers; and general information about the NSI. Automated utilities within NSINIC provide transparent access to on-line help and other systems. Users are encouraged to access the NSINIC on-line system and leave comments.

Accessing NSINIC:

...from a TCP/IP System: TELNET to DFTNIC.gsfc.nasa.gov (128.183.10.3); username is NSINIC.

...from a DECnet System: SET HOST to DFTNIC (DECnet address is 6148); username is NSINIC.

...via Dial-Up Links: Dial the appropriate access number as shown in the following table (all are area code 301), then follow the instructions listed below:

Speed	Parity	Bit Settings	Telephone	Notes
300-2400	ODD/NONE	8 d/1 s or 7 d/2 s	286-9000	All these modems automatically set
300-2400	EVEN	7 data/1 stop	286-9500	themselves for the correct speed.
9600	NONE	8d/1s or 7d/2s	286-4000	Only 8 are available.
9600	EVEN	7 data/1 stop	286-4500	Only 4 are available.

System Prompt

CALL, DISPLAY, OR MODIFY?
DIALING nnnnn
CALL COMPLETE
Enter username>
(misc. system messages)
Local>
(misc. system messages)
Username:

You Type...

CALL SISC <CR>
<CR> <CR>
(type your name here) <CR>
C DFTNIC <CR>
NSINIC <CR>

[NOTE: If dialing from off-GSFC, you will see "ENTER NUMBER" instead!]

...via SprintNet (X.25) Links: Dial your local SprintNet (formerly Telenet) access number, then hit [RETURN] or [ENTER] several times until you see the "@" prompt. (Information on local SprintNet access is available from the NSIUSO.)
NOTE: If you are dialing in to SprintNet, you will need a NASA Packet Switched System (NPSS) DACS userid; contact the NSIUSO for more information.

System Prompt

@
CONNECTION ESTABLISHED
(misc. system messages)
*
ENTER USERID>
ENTER PASSWORD>
ENTER SERVICE>
(misc. system messages)
Username:

You Type...

C NASA
<CR> <CR>
LOGON <CR>
(your DACS ID) <CR>
(your DACS p/w) <CR>
DFTNIC <CR>
NSINIC <CR>

Questions and/or comments about the NSINIC may be e-mailed to the account name "NSIHELP" at any of the following:
DECnet: DFTNIC (6148) TCP/IP: dftnic.gsfc.nasa.gov (128.183.10.3) BITNET: dftbit

NASA Science Internet User Support Office
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301-286-7251 or FTS 888-7251